

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 4, 12, 20 and 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 4, 12, 20 and 28 contain patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 have been amended to include features of allowable claims 4, 12, 20 and 28, where claims 2-4, 10-12, 18-20 and 26-28 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 5, 13, 21 and 29 have been amended to change dependence thereof from the canceled claims to the independent claims 1, 9, 17 and 25.


Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5-8, 13-16, 21-24 and 29-32 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1, 9, 17 and 25.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required for entrance of the accompanying amendment, they may be charged to applicant's representatives Deposit Account No. 50-3649. In addition, please credit any overpayments related to any fees paid in connection with the accompanying amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-3649.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

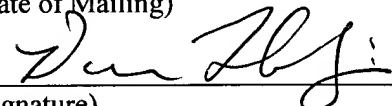
By 
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